The American Observer

A free, virtuous, and enlightened people must know well the great principles and causes on which their happiness depends. -- James Monroe

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Many Issues Raised By Draft of Fathers

Order to Start Inductions October 1 Stirs Criticism of Manpower Program

MILITARY NEEDS ANALYZED

Although Peak Has Been Reached, Armed Services Still Need Large Numbers of Men

Last week, draft headquarters finally set the date for inducting fathers into the Army. Beginning October 1, fathers aged 18 to 37 will be sworn into the nation's armed forces. Their recruitment marks the last stage of the military mobilization which has given the United States the biggest, best trained, and most efficient fighting force in its history.

Some deferments, of course, will still be granted. The basis on which these will be decided is to be, first, essential occupation, and second, the hardship induction might cause in family groups. When fathers are inducted, it is planned to give larger allowances to their dependents.

The new recruitment will be equalized over the entire country. If local draft boards in Missouri finish their conscription of single men or married men without children before those in Idaho, quotas will be revised so that the whole nation begins the induction of men with children at the same time.

When the draft of fathers begins, the armed services will be taking in about 275,000 men a month. About 50,000 of these will be youths just turning 18, and another sizable proportion will be older men who have been reclassified as the boards combed over their files of deferments.

Peak Has Passed

According to the most reliable estimates, the flood tide of recruitment is well past. With the draft of fathers, the end of the year should see the last trickle of inductions. The tremendous goal of an 11,000,000 man Army is near to fulfillment.

The Army itself now boasts a force of 7,670,844 men. Of these, 6,500,000 are enlisted men, and 567,844 officers. The Navy's present total is 311,861; and the Marine Corps, 64,043. Since events promise that before too long we may turn greater attention to the Pacific theater of war, increasingly large proportions of drafted men will be assigned to the latter two services.

The 20 months of our active participation in the war have seen great changes in the American Army. From a force which was comparatively green in all phases of war-making, we have developed a strong and seasoned body which is now fighting successfully and achieving miracles of efficiency in the many technical problems which accompany the mass movement of large numbers of men.

More than two and one-half million of our soldiers are now serving out-(Concluded on page 3)



Sailor boy

LAMBI

Jobs or School?

By Walter E. Myer

Thousands of young people of high school age are now considering the question of whether they should return to school next month. The question has already been answered, of course, for the boys of 18 who are being called to the armed services. But many boys who have not reached that age, and many girls, are free to choose, and the choice is not always an easy one. During recent years there has grown up a tradition which prescribes that one should attend school at least to the end of the high school period. This is generally considered the thing to do. It is hard to break away from that tradition, hard to give up educational opportunities which have become so rigidly customary.

But the lure from the classroom is strong and compelling at this time. The manpower shortage is serious. Everywhere employers are calling for help. Jobs are plentiful and they command wages that are particularly tempting. It is not unusual for a high school boy or girl to get a job which pays as much as teachers receive. Many young people feel that considerations of patriotism and personal interest unite in calling upon them to choose jobs instead of school.

Both these considerations should be carefully examined. First, the matter of patriotism. It is true that there is work to be done and that no hands should be idle. It is also true that waste is involved when a person who is acquiring specific skills or general competence gives up his training and goes half prepared to work. From the standpoint of the national interest it is desirable that the youth of the nation be well equipped in the fundamentals of learning and that they be specifically trained in citizenship. During the critical generation that lies ahead the nation will be weaker if a considerable number of its citizens stop their educational work too soon. It is well known that the Army and Navy prefer that boys remain in school until they reach the age for induction.

One who looks at the problem from the standpoint of personal interest must be impressed by the fact that the jobs which are now so plentiful and remunerative are temporary. It is almost certain that positions will be scarce after the war and that those who are best equipped in training will have the best opportunities.

It is a fact, of course, that there are individuals who do not profit by high school attendance. There are those who can learn more at a job than in the classroom. It is hard to single out and classify these persons, but they are present in every school. Most young people, however, gain in poise and power through high school education. Most students grow in ability to do useful work and to enjoy life. Such students should ponder the problem long and seriously before permitting themselves to be lured from school by opportunities which are likely to be short-lived.

Middle East Plays Vital Role in War

Region Serves as Supply Base for Allies in Mediterranean and Russia

IS LARGE PRODUCER OF OIL

Future of Area Depends Upon Wisdom of United Nations in Handling Big Problems

The last 10 days have brought several signal victories to the Allies in their campaigns to shatter Hitler's fortress. A decisive factor in every one of these successes has been the massed Allied strength and control of the Middle East. This theater of the war, which has seen practically no fighting of late, provided troops, ammunition, and vital war materials used in the Sicilian landings. Bases for the devastating raids on the Ploesti oil fields of Rumania were located here. Allied power in this area constitutes an ominous threat to the Balkans, and a bulwark for the Soviets. And the Middle East guards the eastern end of the strategic Medi-

Turkey, Syria, Iraq, Iran, Palestine, Trans-Jordan, Arabia, and Egypt—these are the lands of the Middle East. Site of the Garden of Eden and legendary cradle of the human race, setting of Biblical history and the Arabian Nights, these lands are today even more significant to the military strategist than to the scholar. Incredibly rich oil fields combine with key location to make the area one of the crucial theaters of the war.

Hub of Continents

The hub of three continents-Eu-Asia, and Africa-the Middle East forms a great land bridge between Europe and India. Egypt, bordering on the Suez Isthmus, is the African gateway on the west. As the lifeline of the British Empire, the Suez Canal is the artery through which flows much vital material for the United Nations. The borders of Turkey and Iran front the Russian Caucasus and the Caspian Sea. And the Persian Gulf, on which both Iraq and Iran have harbors, is an important backdoor for supplies to Russia. Above all, here are situated some of the greatest oil-producing fields in the world.

This oil is concentrated in Iraq and Iran. The Moslem countries of Iraq, Iran, and Syria form a belt of more than 1200 miles across the Middle East. Across Syria runs a pipe line through which a large part of Iraq's oil reaches the Mediterranean to feed the fleets and armadas of the United Nations. The entire region boasts sea lanes, land routes, and railroads over which military supplies flow. So it is evident that these lands would be pawns in any struggle for empire. Despite Nazi plans and systematic infiltration well into 1941, today these territories are entirely dominated by the Allies.

(Concluded on page 6)

Drafting Science for Victory

W E all know that the present war is a battle of scientific minds as well as of opposing armies. Superior weapons decide the issue as often as individual heroism does. But to obtain these superior weapons, a nation must mobilize its scientific resources just as it mobilizes its fighting men.

The United States has made little effort to do this. In some cases, its technical agencies even work the opposite way and thwart the patriotic person with an idea which might be useful to the war effort.

Think of the average man whose evenings in a basement workshop bring him to what he thinks may be an important discovery. What can he do with what he has found in order to have it taken over for the nation's best use?

First of all, he will probably take it to one of the large manufacturing companies. But if the invention does not promise to be an immediate source of profit, the company will probably send him away disappointed. Then he must try the government.

Coming to Washington with a new idea, the inventor may take his discovery to the National Inventor's Council. This is a group within the Department of Commerce formed in 1940 to pass on to other branches of government any worthwhile inventions brought to it by private citizens. But the Council is a small body, composed of volunteers serving without pay, and it has no funds to cover the cost of testing new inventions.

The most likely result is that the inventor will find his idea shelved for



Senator Harley Kilgore

months before the Council can give it any attention. Meanwhile, he may try to have an account of it published in some scientific journal. But here he will run into censorship—the magazine cannot print anything which touches too closely on the war

The next step is to call on various agencies. None of these have money for testing out new ideas. None will accept an idea which has not been proved by experimentation. The inventor is forced to give up and go home, taking with him an idea which might have materially helped the war effort.

Such a waste of talent does not exist in Germany. Our enemy began long ago to mobilize scientific skill and to make sure no worthwhile idea

went unnoticed. Since the early days of the Nazi state, all German labor, from unskilled laborers to professional workers, has been incorporated in a Labor Front. Even employers' associations are included in this great federation of all citizens connected with production.

In the Ministry of Labor, all members of the Labor Front are catalogued. Every detail about their personal lives, their education, or their skills is known to the government. Whenever particular abilities are needed, it is easy to find them. In addition to this, the Nazi state has an official planning commission to direct technical and scientific research according to the government's needs. Everyone in the Reich knows that if he has an idea or an invention, he can have it tried and tested through this commission.

Russia too has avoided wasting her inventive talent. Through the National Academy of Sciences, the government directs technical research for the entire country. Every farm and factory has a small research unit where the individual may develop his ideas. When any of these show promise, regardless of whether or not there is a chance of immediate profit, the government accepts them for further development. The result has been that Russia-once the most backward of western nations-found it less difficult than any other nation to convert a peace economy into a war effort.

We know that our own lack of an authoritative central agency to deal with the scientific side of the war effort has lost us many valuable ideas at a time when we need all we can More than this, it is evident that the lack has created confusion when we have looked for the help of science on particular emergency problems.

When war cut off our supplies of natural rubber, we found that nobody was prepared to make synthetic rubber. At a time when the supply of the natural product was more than adequate, it would have been a waste of money for the great corporations to try to make rubber artificially. When the need suddenly loomed before us, little research had been done on the subject.

Then when research was started on synthetic rubber, we had no way of determining the best method of making it. Scientists who worked for the oil companies said the best formula was the one based on oil. Those interested in agriculture had just as many ways of proving that the best artificial rubber came from grain alcohol made out of wheat. There was no disinterested authority to pronounce on the truth of the matter.

Last year, Congress set out to remedy this situation. Senator Harley Kilgore of West Virginia introduced a bill to establish a federal Office of Scientific and Technical Mobilization through which the scientific resources of the nation might be mobilized and coordinated.

The government already includes great many boards and bureaus which study technical problems of a particular nature. Aviation problems go to the National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics. Farm problems are covered by a number of re-

search groups in the Department of Agriculture. Directly under the President there is the Office of Scientific Research and Development, which was created in 1941 to help recruit technical personnel for the government and to promote research on new weapons for the Army and Navy.

All of these agencies fill the needs of limited fields. But they frequently duplicate each other's work and they do not operate under a long-range, overall plan for the best use of the nation's resources.

The new office which Senator Kilgore advocates would cover the entire field of scientific and technical activity. Far in advance it would plan for the technological transition from war to peace. At the same time, it would assure maximum war use of both raw material and scientific talent.

The proposed agency would keep a census of our scientific and technical facilities, requirements, and personnel, providing deferments for established scientific workers and funds to educate new technical talent. It would also finance the development of inventions and discoveries, and acquire patents for the use of all. At the same time, it would conduct its own research projects.

In this way, the new agency would act as a clearing house on all scientific matters. When people of particular scientific skills were needed by either government or private business, it would know where to find them. When a private citizen invented something, he would know where to take it so that it might be evaluated and put to use. When a small busi-



se of the Kilgore bill is to mobilize scie

nessman ran into difficulties on a war contract, he would know where to turn for technical guidance on his problems.

After the war, Senator Kilgore believes such an agency would prove invaluable to our technological advancement. It would enlarge our scientific knowledge by fostering international exchanges of information. It would stimulate small business with technical advice and assistance. And where no private capital could be found to develop new products or devices, it could set up its own corporations and start them off.

Senator Kilgore's bill was being studied by the Senate Military Affairs Committee when Congress recessed for the summer. It will be debated again this fall when the legislators return to Washington.

3 B S S M

It was a rather warm day and the aviator was taking an elderly lady up for a ride. At about 10,000 feet she leaned forward and shouted, pointing

to the propeller:

"All right, young man. You could that fan off now. I'm muc cooler."

—CAPPER'S WEEKLY You can

An American soldier in England was giving some illustrations of the size of his country. "You can board a train in the state of Texas at dawn," he said impressively, "and twenty-four hours later you'll still be in Texas."

"Yes," said one of his British listeners, with feeling, "we've got trains like that here, too."

—LABOR

When the regular Army had beaten a path to its paratroopers and congratulations were over, an infantry officer asked one of the paratroopers: "But tell me, if your parachute had not opened when it did, what then?"

"That wouldn't have stopped me, sir," replied the other. "I'd have come down just the same."

—PATHFINDER

Housewife: "You'll be careful on my new, polished floor, won't you?"
Plumber: "Don't worry about me. I won't slip. I've got hobnails in my boots."
—Selected

"Your nearest neighbor is 20 miles

away?"
"Yes; out here when a man buys his garden tools, they automatically become his own."
—San Francisco Chronicle

A proud father was teaching his small daughter to tell time.

"These are the hours, these are the minutes, and these are the seconds," he said, pointing them out.

The small girl looked rather puzzled, "But where are the 'jiffles'?"

—CAPPER'S WEEKLY

A London doctor touring in the provinces had difficulty in obtaining suitable lodgings in a small town.

One landlady, showing him a dingy room, remarked persuasively, "As a whole, this is quite a nice room, isn't it?"

"Yes, madam," he agreed, "as a hole, but not as a room."

—LABOR



"But how do you feel otherwise?"



DRAFTING OF WORKERS from airplane factories has been one of the causes of the recent drop in

Fathers to Be Inducted

(Concluded from page 1)

side the limits of this country. The stations they are defending cover the globe. The American Army is in the British Isles-and in India. It is in Greenland and Iceland-and in New Caledonia. Its units are in the Caribbean Islands, South America, North and South Africa, the Near East, Italy, Alaska, Australia, China, and the uncountable islands of the Pacific Ocean. All in all, there are about 45 different areas where the American soldier is serving.

Behind each of these fighting men, there are eight other soldiers working to make his exploits possible. Some of them are doctors, checking and building up his health through the training period, and standing ready to relieve him if he is wounded in battle.

Others are Ordnance men, who see to it that he has the best possible weapons with which to confront the enemy. Still others are Army Engineers, building roads like the Alcan Highway to transport the fighting man to the point he must defend, or constructing camps where he can be trained, or improvising bridges so that he can move quickly when strategy demands it.

Complete Community

Within the Army there is a complete community, with a government hierarchy of its own. It has its own policemen and judges in the Provost Marshal and Judge Advocates Offices. It makes and runs its own communications through the Signal Corps. Its banking, and the payment of troop allotments, goes through the Finance Division. Actual administration is in the hands of the Adjutant General's forces. Even the religious life of the military community is provided for through the Corps of Chaplains.

Among the most important of the men behind the shooting soldier are the members of the Quartermaster Corps. These are the men who feed, house, and clothe him. They are the ones who guarantee him five pounds of highest quality food a day while he is training in the United States. And they are the men who have devised battle rations with little bulk, high nutritive value, and a large capacity for never spoiling.

The miracle food of the war is a brown paper package measuring six by four by six inches. This little package, containing the famous ration K, weighs two pounds and includes all the food an active soldier needs for an entire day. Ration K, which totals 3,000 calories of food energy, is divided into three smaller rations-one each for breakfast, dinner, and supper.

Each meal is built around a small tin of meat, or meat and eggs, or a very good soft cheese. Little cellophane envelopes contain powders which, once water is added, turn into coffee, bouillon, and lemonade. In addition, K ration includes a fruit bar, malted milk tablets, hard biscuits, and non-meltable chocolate.

There are variations on this ration according to the climate where the soldier is to fight. The jungle soldier gets more dried milk and dried fruit, as well as salt tablets to replace what he loses in perspiration. The man whose theater of operations is in a cold climate has more calories in his ration; extra portions of beans and cereal give him the energy he needs for northern or mountain action.

All these service groups are part of the ASF-the Army Service Forces commanded by General Brehon Somervell. While they are essential to the fighting man's effectiveness from the moment the Service Commands-another ASF branch-finish the induction process, their most highly integrated teamwork is called for when they send the soldier overseas for the first time.

Embarkation Points

One newspaperman has described a port of embarkation by saying: "The vast assemblage of quays and docksides, of barracks and inspection depots and shops reminds one of a super-colossal mail order house dealing in war goods, combined with the world's biggest freight and passenger station.'

In this colorful and busy setting, 10 tons of equipment are packed to o with each man who is leaving the United States. While in action overseas, a soldier uses up a ton and a half of food, ammunition, and replaced equipment a month. The Army Service Forces combine operations to see that every detail of it is on hand.

Supplies, weapons, and replace-

ments on every possible item of equipment are prepared for shipping at the port of embarkation. In shops as big as automobile assembly plants, jeeps and trucks and tanks are crated, then loaded on the troop transports. Electrical equipment is hermetically wrapped. Engines are carefully oiled to protect them from the salt air and dampness in the long journey.

Every detail is checked and rechecked before the troops push off. There are last minute physical examinations for every soldier. Clothing, weapons, and equipment undergo a final, rigid inspection. The story is that even three-star generals queue up while their helmets and gas masks receive a final going over by the experts.

Then, to the music of a small Army band, single files of soldiers carrying rifles and barracks bags march up the gangplank of the transport. Inside, the ship is honeycombed with double and triple layers of bunks where the thousands of soldiers will sleep. The moment of sailing is a tense one, for each man knows that he cannot return until our enemies have met their

But even that return is planned for. The government is working out its blueprints now so that the veterans who come back from this war will be reabsorbed into the peacetime life of the nation with a maximum of

Postwar Plans

After other American wars, soldiers trickled back into civilian life and readjusted themselves as best they could. After the Revolution, discharged veterans were given a bonus of \$80 if they were enlisted men, and five years' pay if they were officers. Civil War veterans received up to \$100 upon discharge. Liberal provisions for homesteading and land grants in the undeveloped portions of the West gave them their only chance for economic security.

Following the First World War, soldiers were given a railroad ticket home and a \$60 mustering-out bonus. In the depression periods of the postwar years, the veterans pressed Congress into legislating special bonuses for them at the rate of \$1 a day for service in the United States, and \$1.25 for service overseas. The disabled

were granted pensions for themselves and their dependents, and special preference in federal employ-

This time. President Roosevelt has announced, a full program of help will be provided for veterans. His program is to include not only the official armed forces of the country, but also the men who have given service in the merchant marine.

The major points in the demobilization plan include: (1) mustering-out pay to tide ex-servicemen between discharge and the securing of permanent employment; (2) unemployment insurance for those who register with the United States Employment Service; (3) an opportunity for governmentfinanced education or trade training; (4) credit under unemployment and old-age insurance for their period of service; (5) improved hospitalization and rehabilitation of the disabled, as well as pensions.

The demobilization process itself will be staggered so that married men with dependents will be first to receive discharges. After them will come married men without dependents, then those who are unmarried with dependents, and finally the unmarried without dependents.

Larger Standing Army

After the war, the United States will have to keep a certain number of its soldiers in uniform as occupation forces. A larger standing army for the peacetime years will also be needed. Present plans call for encouraging men trained in this country to volunteer for foreign service to replace men overseas who want to be demobilized. If voluntary enlistments do not fill the quotas needed, men without dependents will be kept in service and assigned to foreign duty.

The industrial and professional skills of soldiers will also determine which men will be demobilized first. Early discharges are promised for men with skill and experience which may be useful to the rebuilding of a peacetime economy. Those who wish to accept jobs on foreign soil will be demobilized before coming home.

Although present laws require employers to accept their old employees when they return from military service, it is believed that other aids will be necessary to solve the job problems of our forces as they are discharged. Special furloughs are one of the devices planned. For the men who want to be demobilized if they can find jobs, but who prefer to stay in the Army if they cannot, three months' leave will be granted for seeking work. If a job is found, a serviceman operating under this plan will be demobilized immediately.

Special allowances will permit young men whose education was interrupted by military service to continue where they left off. Vocational training will be on a very large scale.

The United States has been eminently successful in building up its Army to peak size and effectiveness. Its plans provide for dispersing it again with the same ease and effec-



ON THE HIGH SEAS. More and more American being shipped to the battle fronts of a global war

The Story the Week

End of Hitler?

Every time Hitler has been out of the public eye for any length of time, rumor has pronounced him ill, dead, or overthrown. The downward trend of German fortunes has fostered an unusually large crop of such rumors in the last few weeks. Now these have been fused in an unofficial Spanish report that a trio of military leaders has taken over the German government.

The report established Hermann Goering as the new leader of Nazism. Army Chief Wilhelm Keitel and Commander-in-chief of the Navy Karl Doenitz are said to share control with Goering. According to the Spanish story, the military men have taken over for a long war of defense.

This action would have Hitler and the whole Nazi party relegated to comparative obscurity. Goering is said to be retained as a go-between for the Nazis and the new military leaders. It is believed that the old military aristocracy of Germany, having returned to a dominant position, will gradually ease the top Nazis out of the picture entirely.

London and other capitals of the



Hermann Goering

United Nations are inclined to be skeptical about the reports of Hitler's downfall. It is admitted, however, that the time may come when the German military leaders will shelve Hitler and the Nazis in the hope of obtaining more favorable peace terms.

Berlin Exodus

Although Allied air raids on Berlin have been relatively mild up to now, the terrible devastation our bombers have visited on Hamburg, Essen, and Cologne has given the Nazis frantic fears for their capital. Propaganda Minister Goebbels has now ordered all nonessential residents to evacuate the city.

The exodus, which is reported as already begun, will eventually take more than a million women and children out of Berlin. The refugees have been directed to take along their bedding as well as enough food to last 24 hours. Along with their removal have come rumors that the German capital will be declared an open city.

Withholding their fire on Berlin, the Allies have turned still another Nazi trick back upon its originators

-the war of nerves. A constant stream of wounded soldiers and refugees from bombed-out cities has been pouring into Berlin for weeks. This in itself has been demoralizing to the already worried Berliners. Now that evacuations have been started, the confusion is bound to increase. Whether or not Allied strategists decide to level Berlin as other great German cities have been leveled, the threat alone may go far in paralyzing Nazi power to rally against us.

War Fronts

The United Nations were celebrating four victories last week. Two of them were in Russia, where the Red Army swept forward to take Orel and Belgorod and to menace Germany's hold on Kharkov. third came from Sicily as our forces blasted their way through the German Etna line and captured Catania. Japanese defeat at Munda rounded out the picture with a Pacific triumph.

Each of these newly won objectives represents important progress for the Allies. Now that the Russians are within reach of Kharkov and Bryansk, the failure of Germany's third drive against the Soviet is assured. The Allied victory at Catania has broken the back of German defenses in Sicily and paves the way for action against Italy itself.

Along with the capture of Munda came an optimistic statement by General MacArthur, who commands our Pacific forces. "Japan, on the Pacific fronts, has exhausted the fullest resources of concentrated attack of which she was capable, has failed, and is now on the defensive," the General said. He went on to call our Pacific successes "decisive of the final outcome of the whole Far Eastern war.

Allied air forces continued to hammer at the most vital ramparts of Fortress Europe last week. A British aviation expert has estimated that every 800-plane night raid destroys as much as 77,000 German workers could build in a month. In May, the total bomb tonnage dropped on Germany came to 16,700 tons. This reduced the German war effort about 24 per cent, according to the expert's estimate.

"Fortress Asia"

With the European end of the Axis declining. Japan has begun a series of desperate steps to strengthen the prestige of fascism in Asia. What Premier Tojo hopes to do is to build up some enthusiasm for the Co-Prosperity Sphere by granting puppet independence to whatever states are ready to fight with Japan against the United Nations.

Japan's latest gesture in this direction was the granting of independence to Burma, after which the Burmese declared war on all the Allies. Now the drive is on India. Through Ba Maw, the figurehead leader of "liberated" Burma, and Subhas Chandra Bose, pro-Japanese Indian independence agitator, Japan is trying to rally the discontented people of India in case the Allies begin a drive against them from the west.

At the same time, Japan is reported liberalizing her administration of the



RECEPTION IN CHUNGKING. Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek and Mme. Chiang entertain Lt. Gen. Joseph W. Stilwell, commander of American forces in China, Burma, and India.

other conquered territories. In Korea and Manchukuo, greater self-government is now being allowed. In the Philippines, Japanese propaganda promises rich rewards for collaboration. Anticipating stronger blows from the United Nations in the near future, Japan is trying to consolidate her conquests into an Asiatic equivalent of Hitler's Fortress Europe.

Sweden Halts Transit

Although Sweden has maintained neutrality throughout the war, there has been one major obstacle to a completely cordial relationship with the United Nations. By a treaty entered into in July, 1940, the 10,000mile Swedish railway system served as a supply route for German war materiel for the forces in Norway and Finland. Besides, a safe and short land transit was provided for 250,000 Nazi troops annually. The Swedish government has just terminated this agreement. Transportation of supplies was to cease August 15. of troops August 20.

Coming at a time when Germany is suffering reverses in Russia, in Sicily, and in the air, Sweden's action is a blow physically as well as psychologically. It is estimated that troop transport alone to the Scandinavian countries will require one-third of Axis shipping, which Allied naval vigilance will make very dangerous.

Much as the traffic arrangement rankled the Swedish populace, the government has not felt free until now to terminate it. Besides being a vote of confidence in Allied victory, Sweden's boldness implies: (1) that she is able to withstand any German

While the iron is hot

military retaliation; (2) that Germany is powerless to change the situation; (3) that Sweden finds it advisable to be free of any charges of Axis friendship; (4) and that an Allied invasion of neighboring Norway may be in the offing.

Harlem Race Riots

Ever since the race riots rocked Detroit in June, the nation has been uneasy about colored-white relationships. This has been particularly true in the major war-production centers where Negro and white workers are working side by side, and race prejudice has prevented maximum output and jeopardized community safety. The war, which is being

NOTICE

In accordance with our usual procedure, we are suspending publication of The American Observer for the next three weeks. The next issue will appear under date of September 13.

fought for preservation of our basic democratic rights, has further highlighted the problem.

New York City's Harlem, with a Negro population of 300,000, is the largest Negro community in the North. For many years it has suffered from the tensions which inevitably exist in an overcrowded. poverty-stricken, underprivileged group. Rents and food prices are disproportionately high here, and a large section of the population suffers from job discrimination. The treatment accorded Negro soldiers in certain Army camps is said to have become another sore spot.

On Sunday, August 1, this underlying restlessness flared into a major Disturbances started when a white policeman shot and wounded a Negro soldier in an argument over the arrest of a Negro woman. Crowds gathered in the community, especially before the hospital where the wounded soldier had been taken. All kinds of false rumors inflamed the mobs. The soldier was reported shot for no reason, and killed. fronts were shattered, wild looting occurred, pillage and rioting were widespread. The result was the worst riot in Harlem's history: five dead, more than 500 wounded or injured, 500 arrested, and more than \$4,000,000 worth of damage.

When the disorder had subsided, and emergency measures could be lifted, study of the problem revealed several things: the riot had not been a race riot; Harlem's problems, which were regarded as the fundamental cause, remained unsolved; there was a pressing need for more recreational, training, and educational facilities. It was clear to white and colored observers alike that such disorders might result from similar conditions in any slum community.

Plane Production

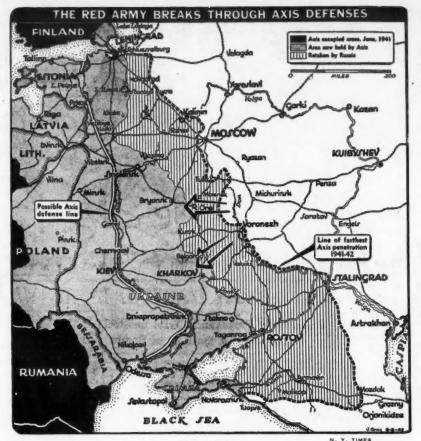
America's production of airplanes is seriously behind schedule, according to a statement just issued by War Production Board Chairman Donald M. Nelson. While the July output of 7,373 planes topped all previous records, it represented an increase of only 173 over last May. And it fell grievously short of the 8,000-or-more goal which had been set for it.

In announcing the July total, Mr. Nelson revealed that aircraft factories had enough material to make 8,500 planes last month. At the root of the lag in output was a growing manpower problem. The War Production Board has tried to deal with manpower difficulties by shifting contracts from hard-pressed areas. This was done in Seattle, where the government curtailed a number of war manufactures in order to conserve labor for the Boeing Aircraft plant.

Oil

For more than 20 years the automobile has been one of the symbols of American civilization, and crowded motor highways typical of the American scene. The needs of mechanized warfare, curtailed shipping, and losses at sea changed this. Since last January nonessential driving has been sharply reduced, and there has been a ban on pleasure driving in the East. Gasoline rationing has been in effect in the East for over a year. and fuel rationing for almost that length of time. Because of the re-sources of the Middle West and Southwest, and the proximity to shipping lanes of the East, distribution of oil has not been equal throughout the country.

With Petroleum Administrator Ickes' announcement last week that "the oil transportation problem has been about whipped," motorists in the East are looking forward to far more liberal supplies of gasoline. In



The Russian front

the West, however, there will very likely be some curtailment so as to equalize the burden. More fuel will be available because the Big Inch pipe line, now completed, pumps 300,000 gallons daily into the East; sinking of tankers has dropped; and stocks of fuel oil for heating have been built up.

Oil, however, remains a problem. By the end of this year, military and civilian needs will consume 4,500,000 barrels a day, as opposed to production of about 3,900,000 barrels.

Rayburn Reports

In a speech to his Texas constituents about 10 days ago, Speaker of the House Sam Rayburn brought a new perspective to his appraisal of the country's war effort. Optimists have exaggerated our achievements, pessimists deplored it, and a large group for whom Mr. Rayburn coined the term "grumlin" have grumbled and chafed at any personal inconveniences or adjustments the war demanded of them. The Speaker discounted all these extreme points of view.

Surveying our record of the last

two years, Mr. Rayburn used our accomplishments and not our mistakes as a criterion. "Of course, mistakes were made. Of course, judgments went wrong," he said. "But looking back on them now, I do not think the worst of our misjudgments were as wide of the mark as the dire prophecies of the critics who deplored them. . . . We were building better than we knew."

The military successes in Sicily, North Africa, and the Solomons, he regarded as the best measure of America's war achievements. We have raised the largest and best-equipped Army in our history; doubled the size of our Navy; and in the last year have increased our air power by more than 64,000 planes. In transporting more than 2,000,000 men overseas, we have lost fewer than 700 men. Through lend-lease, \$11,000,000,000 of aid has been sent to bolster our Allies.

Black Markets

Although Congress refused to add anything to the Office of Price Administration funds for enforcement, OPA is pressing its campaign against black market operators with increasing vigor. Scattered over the entire country, the agency has 2,400 enforcement agents who keep a constant check on local price and rationing programs.

The worst black market situations these men have to face are in gasoline, meat, and poultry. In all three, racketeers have seized so large a part of the market that in poultry at least, it is estimated that 50 per cent of all selling is illegal.

OPA enforcement men have two basic methods for meeting the black market problem. To curb price violations, the agency has introduced "price panels" in local rationing boards. These panels hear the complaints of consumers and will question suspected dealers on the basis of what consumers tell them. The second method is enlisting state and municipal authorities in a program of cooperation with the limited number of OPA officials.

News in Brief

A study reported recently in the Journal of the American Medical Association graphically portrays the effects of wholesome and well-balanced meals on 100 disabled workers in jobs varying from office work to coal mining, steel workers to department store clerks. A doctor helped each sick worker and his family to plan a nutritious diet which was adhered to and now all the men are back on the job. The study points out that while wholesome food is not a panacea for any illness, its preventive and curative results are notable.

Silver is being used extensively in the war effort. In the front lines it is used in airplane bearings, field artillery and anti-aircraft guns, and submarine parts. Other uses are photographic equipment, surgical instruments and supplies, electrical installations, and as a substitute for copper and tin in fine wire, plating, and as lining in boilers and other containers.

Tax relief has been brought to the men and women in the armed forces by 44 state legislatures. Some states have exempted soldiers' pay from income tax and have extended the time for filing tax returns for periods ranging from 3 to 12 months after the war.

An interesting wartime development in this country is the phenomenal rise in book sales. Some publishers report increases as high as 60 per cent. An explanation of this may be found in several factors including these: more time is spent at home due to restrictions of gas rationing, leaving more time for reading; cheaper editions of classics and of new books; increased availability of reading matter through department stores, newsstands, and drugstores.

England is launching a large-scale housing program for rural areas. Construction has already begun and many of the 3,000 cottages will be ready for occupancy by harvest time of this year. They will be located in numerous communities scattered throughout England and Wales. Each house will be equipped with modern bathrooms, three bedrooms, and a living room. Approximate rent will be \$8.35 per month.



U. S. NAVY FROM ACME

CHILDREN OF SICILY gather hopefully around an American sergeant who shares his rations with

The American Observer

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The Near and Middle East

JOHNSON

Middle East Is Important to Allies

(Concluded from page 1)

In the center of the area, Iran, the old Kingdom of Persia, is the cross-roads of the Middle East. Because of its prime importance, it is the only place where the armies of Britain, America, and Russia operate in daily touch with one another. The country's area equals about one-fifth that of the United States, and its population is about one-tenth as great. Across its deserts run roads that carry supplies to Russia and link Egypt with India.

Last spring lend-lease materials for Russia poured into Iran faster than the Russians could carry them away. Although the Persian Gulf harbors of Iran are 14,000 miles by ship from New York, as opposed to the 4,600 miles from New York to Murmansk, they are torpedo and bomb-free. From these ports truck convoys proceed to the Caucasus, and railroad freight goes to the Caspian Sea for transfer to cargo vessels.

Vital Supply Bases

The Persian Gulf and the Caspian Sea are connected by the Trans-Iranian Railway, which traverses mountains resembling our Rockies. The railway twists through 224 tunnels and crosses 4.102 bridges in its 870-mile run. Besides enlarging ports, the American Army's Persian Gulf Service Command is now operating this railway, mainly to deliver lend-lease materials to Russia. decades ago, the Iranians would have worn flowing robes and driven camels. Today in mechanics' or drivers' garb, they are assembling parts, driving trucks, and patrolling highways to speed Allied victory.

Despite its fine forests, its invaluable mineral deposits—many still undeveloped—its unique turquoise mines, and its transportation faciliage it is oil which makes Iran so

desperately important to the United Nations in keeping their military machine as well as their industries moving.

In the southwest territory at the head of the Persian Gulf is found the richest single oil field in existence. And at Abadan Island in the Persian Gulf, a huge plant, the second largest in the world, produces tremendous quantities of high-octane gasoline. Pipe lines run to the Persian Gulf and there are extensive oil wells near the Caspian Sea and the Iraq border. Tankers from this port head for Africa, India, and Australia. It is estimated that Iran produces 80,000,-000 tons of oil annually.

The German attack on Russia in June, 1941, together with Nazi infiltration into Iran, led to joint occupation of the country by Russia and Britain in August and September, 1941.

Like Iran, Iraq also suffered from inroads of the Nazis, since it enjoys similar advantages of location and natural resources. While most of the land is flinty, harsh, treeless desert covered with thin scrub vegetation, great fertile valleys lie between the Tigris and Euphrates Rivers. Here live nine-tenths of the country's three and one-half million people, raising wheat, cereals, tobacco, and the world's largest crop of dates. In the north of the country, nomadic tribes tend flocks of sheep, which yield wool and skins for export.

Oil for Allies

At the northern end of the Tigris-Euphrates valleys, overwhelming the agricultural output of the entire country is the important oil field of Kirkuk. From the oil towers of this region twin pipe lines stretch beneath the Syrian desert 1,000 miles to the ports of Tripoli in Syria and

Haifa in Palestine, on the Mediterranean Sea. This oil feeds the Mediterranean fleet and supplies the armies of the Middle East and India.

Unlike Iran and the other countries of the Middle East, however, Iraq is an active belligerent on the side of the United Nations. On January 16 of this year it declared war against Germany, Italy, and Japan. Their reasons were: interference in domestic affairs, promotion of rebellion, hostile radio propaganda, dissemination of rumors and false reports, and encouragement of general unrest.

Actually, the country had been occupied by British troops since June, 1941, when the pro-Axis government was ousted. Soon thereafter Iraq broke off relations with Italy, Japan, and Vichy, and actively cooperated with the British authorities. though Iraq had been technically a free and sovereign state since 1932. when the British mandate was terminated, Britain, in the interests of military necessity, invoked a virtually obsolete treaty of 1930. This provided that in the event of Britain's involvement in a war, the King of Iraq would furnish "on Iraq territory all facilities and assistance in his power, including the use of railways, rivers, ports, aerodromes, and means of communication."

When German might loomed large in the Balkans in 1941 and threatened Palestine and the Suez Canal, the British, taking advantage of this clause, landed troops and supplies. Thus, besides the resources of the country, Britain controls the Bagdad railway, linking Iraq with Turkey, and the modern airport in Bagdad. With the country actively in the war, the United Nations enjoy the assistance of Iraq's armed forces who guard the communications and oil installations that are so vital.

The pipe lines running through Syria and its ports on the eastern coast of the Mediterranean Sea made its control imperative for the United Nations. As a French mandated territory, it presented a more complex problem than either Iraq or Iran. In 1941, the Vichy authorities, instead of practicing strict neutrality, were permitting German aircraft to use Syrian airdromes, were sending materials to Syrian rebels, and generally abetting Nazi agents. After a battle of less than five weeks, the British secured rights to occupy Syria for the duration of the war, to control the country's war materials and public utilities.

While all the lands of the Middle East suffer from internal dissension and the growing pains of national realization, Palestine, with its 1,000,-000 Arabs and 500,000 Jews, its sacred associations for Christian, Jewish, and Moslem religions, presents one of the most delicate problems of the world as well as of the region. The Arab-Jewish controversies of earlier years have ceased to be a major source of civil disorder. They remain a cause of Allied weakness, however, because they impede full mobilization of the local population. As yet, no permanent compromise has been achieved between the two groups.

Though not belligerent, the other countries of the Middle East are also playing essential roles in furthering the war efforts of the United Nations. Since the rout of the Germans this spring, the British have been securely in control of Egypt's strategic points. Headquarters of British operations in the Middle Eastern theater, with reserves of combat divisions and stockpiles, are based in Cairo.

Pan-Arab Movement

Both the Turkish Republic in the north and the Arabian peninsula in the south have been intent on maintaining their neutrality, while showing pronounced friendliness toward the Allies. The Arabians' Pan-Arab, Islam sentiments supersede their pro-British feelings. Turkey has become progressive—more hostile to the Nazis. The borders between Turkey and Syria, Iraq, and Iran are patrolled by massed troops, and Turkish leaders continually confer with Allied leaders.

Students and observers of the Middle East are unanimous in their judgment of the opportunism of the peoples there. They respect strength and know the Allies have it. Their increasing cooperation with the Allies has coincided with the latter's gains. Now more than ever this good will is an essential factor, for the Middle East will undoubtedly be one of the springboards for Allied attack on the Balkans. After the war, however, the United Nations will have many obligations to fulfill in the Middle East.

Today an Arab federation, for which many schemes have been advanced, is a paramount subject of discussion. Differences among the factions of the region are further complicated by the contradictory tangle of pledges and commitments made by various leaders and powers in the past. One of the pressing tasks of the United Nations on achieving victory, will be to make an equitable settlement of the individual national problems in the Middle East, as well as help to work out some tenable scheme for a federation of the countries of this area.

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Jones, Jesse. July 5—5; July 12—1
Juvenile Delinquency. Mar. 29—1

Kilgore Bill. Aug. 16—2 King, Ernest J. Oct. 26-Korea. Mar. 15—4

And Congress. Jan. 4—8; Jan. 11—2;
Apr. 19—5; Aug. 9—1
And Politics. Aug. 9—1
Anti-Strike Bill. June 7—4; June 14—4;
June 21—4; July 5—1; July 5—4; Aug. 2—4; Aug. 9—1
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Hours of Work. (See United States at War.)
In Britain. June 21—8
Leaders in Army. Apr. 5—5
Manpower Problem. (See United States at War.) Manpower Froblem.
War.)
Rickenbacker on. Mar. 8—8
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La Guardia, Fiorello. Apr. 19—5

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Leaders. Apr. 12—5
Materials in. Sept. 27—2; Mar. 1—8
Neutrals. Oct. 19—5; Oct. 26—1; Nov. 2—4; Feb. 1—5; Mar. 15—8

People. Apr. 12—3 Role in War. Apr. 12—1 Special Issue. Apr. 12 United States-Mexican Plan. July 26—5 United States-Mexican Plan. July 26—5
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Leahy, William D. Oct. 26—8
Lehman Committee. June 21—1
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Lewis, John L. Apr. 5—1; Apr. 12—5; May 10—4; May 24—4
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Maas, Melvin. Nov. 23—5; Nov. 30—2 Magnesium. Apr. 26—6 and 7 Malta. Nov. 30—3 Manganese. Apr. 26—6 and 7 Manpower. (See United States at War.) Marauder. Oct. 5—2 Marshall, George C. Oct. 26—8 Martian. Nov. 2—8 Martinique. Mar. 22—8; May 10—5; July 12—4 Martina. Nov. 2—8
Martinique. Mar. 22—8; May 10—5; July 12—4
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McKellar, Kenneth. Mar. 8—5
McNutt, Paul V. Oct. 26—8
Medina, Isaías. Apr. 12—5
Mediterranean. Nov. 9—1; Nov. 30—3
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June 21—2; July 26—5
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Mission to Moscow. May 17—4
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Montgomery, B. L. Nov. 23—3; May 31—2
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Murphy, Robert D. Nov. 30—5
Mussolini, Benito. Aug. 2—1; Aug. 2—4
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National Inventor's Council. Aug. 16-2 National Resources Planning Board Report. Mar. 22—1; Apr. 26—1 Near East. Mar. 15—4; July 5—5; Aug. 16—1 16—1 Nelson, Donald M. Oct. 26—8 Netherlands. Dec. 7—5 Neutrals. (See individual countries.) New Zea!and. Dec. 7—5; May 3—4 Nicaragua. Apr. 12—8 Nickel. Apr. 26—6 and 7 Norway. Dec. 7—5 Nurses. June 14—2 Nutrition. Apr. 26—2 N.Y.A. July 12—4

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Office of War Information. Oct. 19—8; Nov. 2—8; Nov. 9—5; Nov. 30—2; Apr. 26—5;
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Pacific Islands. Jan. 11—6
Pacific Ocean. Jan. 11—1
Palestine. Nov. 9—5
Panama. Dec. 14—5; Apr. 12—8
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Pay-as-you-go Taxes. (See Taxes.)
Personality Test. Apr. 5—3
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lanning For. Dec. 7—7; Jan. 18—1; Feb. 15—2; Feb. 15—3; Mar. 1—8; Mar. 8—3; Mar. 15—1; Mar. 15—3; Mar. 22—3; Mar. 29—1; Apr. 26—8; May 17—7

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Red Cross, International. Feb. 1—2; Mar. 22—6
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Rockefeller, Nelson. Oct. 26—3
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23—4; Feb. 15—1; Mar. 15—4; Aug. 16—1
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Subsidies. June 28—5; July 19—1
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Second Front. Sept. 7—4; Sept. 21—4; Oct. 12—1; May 24—1 Sicily. July 19—1; July 26—4; July 26—8; Aug. 2—1; Aug. 2—4; Aug. 9—4; Aug. 16—4

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